



## For generous MARAD employees, charity begins at work Key workers raise almost \$2,000 extra for this year's CFC

— by *Perquita Scott, public affairs specialist* —

The Maritime Administration kicked off its Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) on October 27, with a program celebrating a season of giving hosted by Maritime Administrator Sean T. Connaughton. Also speaking at the event was Linda Washington, the Department of Transportation's Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration.

The event emphasis was on participating and contributing to help others in need. This year's National Capital Area CFC theme urged federal employees to "Be a Star in Someone's Life" by becoming a contributor to the annual fund drive.

To assist in reaching this year's CFC goal, MARAD key workers decided to hold fundraisers. Fundraising began on November 7, with a "CFC Extravaganza!" Open to the entire department, this event included a hot dog lunch sale, a baked goods-sale, an indoor yard sale and raffles—all held simultaneously.

The November success helped key workers decide to hold another unique event the following month.

On December 5 the key workers hosted a "dueling lunch menu" with a soup-and-sandwich sale taking

place on one side of the room while a freshly grilled hot dog sale was taking place on the other side of the same room.

The lunchtime events raised over \$1,979 toward this year's overall MARAD goal of \$54,590.

"When all the numbers are added up, we expect to have reached or exceeded our agency's goal," said Kathy Thomas, MARAD's 2006 CFC coordinator.

Of course, MARAD extends a sincere "thank you" and a hearty "well done" to all of this year's CFC key workers: Gertrude Benally, Ronald Parker, Patrick Carlton, Todd Ripley, Veronica Carver, Jan Downing, Cynthia Rollins-Bearor, Elizabeth Hawkins, Perquita Scott, Kenneth Kirwan, Daniel Ladd, Patricia Thomas, Helen Littleton; Yvonne Washington, Cynthia Mackey, Bobby Meeks, Chris Moore and John Massey. *(See the group photo on page 2.)*

Special thanks goes to Ruth Develbis, Lolita Cooper, Lisa Green, Frances Jerry, Harley Evelyn, Danielle Bennett, Carol Powers, Rita Thomas, Michelle Reed and Chavarria Harris, for their support.

And a sincere "thank you" goes to all the generous MARAD contributors who help to make the campaign successful. They truly are "stars in someone's life!"



Helen Littleton grills hot dogs while Chavarria Harris and Veronica Carver serve hungry customers during a MARAD CFC lunchtime event Dec. 5, 2006, at the agency's D.C. headquarters.



*Photos by Thom Robinson*

Frances Jerry serves soup with smiles during the MARAD Dec. 5 charity luncheon for CFC, a combined soup, sandwich and hot dog sale.

## A personal message 'from the bridge' . . .

The holiday season is when many of us take time to appreciate the good things we have and to look forward to the next year.

Our front office here is beautifully decorated, and I invite all of you to stop by and take a look.

Whether we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or some other festival (or none) we can all enjoy this time of good cheer and look forward to what the new year may bring.

One thing 2007 is going to bring us is a new place to work. The new building at Navy Yard is almost ready for us, and the staff members who have visited the site are enthusiastic about the way our space looks. I am looking forward to the move, and I hope you all are, too.

We will be restructuring a little bit, to take better advantage of the skills our people have to offer, to adapt to the changing scene in the international maritime industry, and to our changing role within the Department. You will be hearing more about that in



**SEAN T. CONNAUGHTON**  
Maritime Administrator

the coming months.

The holiday season is not only a time to feel gratitude for our own good fortune, but also to share what we have with others.

Our agency has an excellent record for participation in the Combined Federal Campaign, and our key workers have done a magnificent job this year. I think each of us can find at least one charity in the extensive CFC catalogue that is worthy of our support, if you're so inclined.

To each employee of the Maritime Administration, and to all our maritime family:

Happy Holidays!

And all the best for 2007.

**SEAN T. CONNAUGHTON**  
Maritime Administrator  
U.S. Maritime Administration



Photo by Thom Robinson

### Our '06 CFC key workers

These Maritime Administration employees helped make this year's Combined Federal Campaign a success. Much thanks to them — and much more thanks to you!

(Right to left, front row) Gertrude Benally, Perquita Scott, Veronica Carver, Helen Littleton, Chris Moore; (middle row) Bobby Meeks, Patricia Thomas, Kathy Thomas, Elizabeth Hawkins; (back row) Jan Downing, Todd Ripley, Ronald Parker and Kenneth Kirwin.

(CFC key workers not pictured: Patrick Carlton, Cynthia Rollins-Bearor, Yvonne Washington and Cynthia Mackey.)

## MARAD Update

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## Federal agencies developing first-responder ID

**Jim Zok represents MARAD on development team**

*— Story & photo by Thom Robinson, public affairs specialist —*

One of the lessons learned by emergency planners during the September 11th tragedy, and in the aftermaths of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, was that it is often difficult if not impossible to determine the "good guys" from the bad ones based on the appearance, presentation or hand-carried credentials of a total stranger.

In a crisis, when on-scene officials cannot confirm that the people who show up for duty possess the required specialties and skills demanded by the situation, those officials in charge of the emergency response are prevented from using first responders and volunteers efficiently and effectively, which further delays delivering aid and assistance to those with immediate needs.

How does one know that the identification being displayed is legitimate and, more importantly, that the person holding that ID card is in fact who he or she claims to be?

Jim Zok, the Maritime Administration's associate administrator for financial approvals and cargo preference, can easily explain the range of identity problems facing a nationwide force of first responders when communities are in crisis.

The solution, however, is not so easy.

"Look at what happened in (Hurricane) Katrina. There were situations where doctors showed up to render medical services but were instead only allowed to drive cars because officials couldn't verify their credentials or determine who they were," said Zok.

This is one reason why Homeland Security Policy Directive 12 was issued to change all that delay and confusion by developing and establishing reliable personal identification, verification and documentation protocols for all federal employees and contractors -- literally hundreds of thousands of people. Other initiatives have also appeared to do similar things for other populations -- initiatives such as U.S. VISIT, TWIC, Registered Traveler, FAST, NEXUS, SENTRI and several others.

So how does the government get its arms around a problem this size?

Zok said the first step is to review what's already being done by agencies across federal, state and local governments -- and even across U.S. borders.

As a MARAD representative, Zok attended a recent gathering of policy planners and agency experts who met to begin mapping and analyzing the 43 different vetting systems that are currently in use by the federal community alone.

"When you look at this entire process, and the cost involved, and the number of background checks that are being done on people . . . it's just a huge amount of redundancy that (a lot of which) should be unnecessary," he said.

"For some time now, I have been on several teams that are discussing these issues, analyzing policies and working on improving things. MARAD got involved with the first-responders issue because our agency has been working with the Maritime Administrative Card, since the mid-90s. The card is fundamentally for crewmembers and workers in the maritime industry. We compared notes and found that there was a lot of similarity in what we were trying to achieve, so we began working together."

**MARAD's Jim Zok conducts an inter-agency conference call from his office in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 13, 2006. Zok has been assisting a federal-policy "think tank" in developing ways to both quickly and accurately identify maritime workers and emergency responders, and to verify their professional credentials.**



"We are also involved with TWIC (transportation worker identity credential)," he said. "When we started TWIC, we were looking at workers carrying 20 or 30 documents, just to be able to be onboard and do their jobs."

Fortunately lots of agencies are now sitting down and comparing processes in an attempt to reduce redundancy and speed identity verification.

The Department of Defense, which is the largest issuer of identification cards, has provided significant leadership and expertise during development of these protocols, so it is fortunate that they are bringing their experience and expertise to the table, said Zok.

*Editor's note: After 36 years of service to the federal government, Jim Zok will retire from the U.S. Maritime Administration on Jan. 3, 2007. MARAD thanks him for his service to America and wishes both him and his family fair weather, good winds and good luck with future endeavors!*



## New online Mariner Outreach System proves successful

— by Susan Clark, Public Affairs officer —

The Maritime Administration's Mariner Outreach System is just six months old, but it has clearly gained acceptance with the seafaring community. The system provides mariners who agree to participate an opportunity to review their qualifications and sea service and update their contact information. The MOS is user friendly and allows access by mariners via a secure Internet Web site:

<https://mos.marad.dot.gov>.

Mariners' participation in MOS will improve the Maritime Administration's ability to understand and communicate with mariners. Additionally, MOS provides the Maritime Administration with a means of monitoring the availability of mariners. As of October 1, 2006, 25 percent of mariners with a valid U.S. Merchant Mariner's Document have consented to participate.

Anne Dougherty, a program analyst in the Office of Sealift Support, said many of the mariners on file had previously consented to participate in an earlier tracking system before the MOS Internet portal was launched. She points out, however, that gaining the volunteer participation of some 10 to 15 new mariners who register each week, for a program that has no money to adver-

tise its existence but just depends on word of mouth, is very good.

"We are working hard to get the word out and appreciate the incredible support we have received from the maritime labor unions and our industry partners. Our goal is to use MOS to better understand what is happening with the pool of United States mariners so we can work with our industry partners to identify and address the specific issues that have a negative impact on the mariner pool."

U.S. Department of Transportation  
**MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**

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File graphic

**By participating in the Mariners' Outreach System, mariners are able to view important career information on file including their personal data, emergency contacts, professional qualifications and sea service records.**

### WELCOME ABOARD!

**Say "Hello" to these new MARAD employees hired during November:**

**ROBERT MCLEAN**, logistics management specialist, HQ, MAR-614—Nov. 13, 2006

**ELIZABETH PROCH**, information technology specialist security, HQ, MAR-340—Nov. 27, 2006

**TYRONE BROXTON**, recruitment specialist, USMMA—Nov. 27, 2006